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68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ No. 838

FIXING THE BASIS FOR PROMOTION OF CHAPLAINS IN THE ARMY

JANUARY 2 (calendar day, JANUARY 3), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CAPPER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2532]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 2532) to amend in certain particulars the national defense act of June 3, 1916, as amended, having considered the same, report thereon favorably with the recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

On page 1, line 7, strike out the numeral "8" and insert "12."

The proposed bill in effect provides pay and promotion equal to that received by other persons in the Army performing professional services.

The following shows the present and proposed rank, pay, and allowances received by Army chaplains:

AT PRESENT

Chief of chaplains, rank, pay, and allowances of colonel.
Less than five years' service, rank, etc., of first lieutenant.
Five to fourteen years' service, rank, etc., of captain.
Fourteen to twenty years' service, rank, etc., of major.
Over 20 years' service, rank, etc., of lieutenant colonel.

PROPOSED

Chief of chaplains, rank, pay, and allowances of brigadier general.
Less than three years' service, rank, etc., of first lieutenant.
Three to twelve years' service, rank, etc., of captain.
Twelve to twenty years' service, rank, etc., of major.
Twenty to twenty-six years' service, rank, etc., of lieutenant colonel.
Twenty-six years' service and over, rank, etc., of colonel.

This measure has the support of the War Department, as is shown by the report thereon, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report, as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 4, 1924.

HON. JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Jr.,

Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR WADSWORTH: With reference to S. 2532, a bill to amend certain particulars of the national defense act, June 3, 1916, as amended, which would amend that section of the act relating to Army chaplains, I am pleased to advise you that the War Department recommends favorable consideration of this bill, as modified by features incorporated in the following redraft:

"A BILL To amend in certain particulars the national defense act of June 3, 1916, as amended

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said national defense act, as amended be, and the same is hereby, further amended by striking out section 15 of said act and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"SEC. 15. Chaplains.—There shall be one chaplain for every eight twelve hundred officers and enlisted men of the Regular Army, exclusive of the Philippine Scouts and the unassigned recruits, authorized from time to time in accordance with law and within the peace strength permitted by this act, Chaplains shall hereafter have rank, pay, and allowances according to length of active commissioned service in the Army, or, since April 6, 1917, in the National Guard while in active service under a call by the President, as follows: Less than three years, first lieutenant; three to twelve years, captain; twelve to twenty years, major; twenty to twenty-six years, lieutenant colonel; over twenty-six years, colonel. One chaplain, of rank not below that of major, may be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to be chief of chaplains. He shall serve as such for four years, and shall have the rank, pay, and allowances of brigadier general while so serving. His duties shall include investigation into the qualifications of candidates for appointment as chaplain, and general coordination and supervision of the work of chaplains. Of the vacancies existing on July 1, 1920, such number as the President may direct shall be filled by appointment on that date of persons under the age of fifty-eight years, other than chaplains of the Regular Army, who served as chaplains in the Army at some time between April 6, 1917, and the date of the passage of this act. Such appointments may be made in grades above the lowest under the same restrictions as to age and rank as are hereinafter prescribed for original appointments in other branches of the service, and in accordance with the recommendation of the board of officers provided for in section 24. For purposes of future promotion, persons so appointed shall be considered as having had, on the date of appointment, sufficient prior service to bring them to their respective grades under the rules of promotion established in this section."

The purpose of this bill, to place chaplains of the Army on an equality as to rank, pay, and promotion with other officers in professional and technical services, is one with which the War Department is in accord.

This proposed legislation has been submitted to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, as required by Circular No. 49 of that bureau, who advises that the same is not in conflict with the financial program of the President with the changes above indicated.

In connection with the statements made by Lieutenant Colonel Pierson and Chaplain Axton, as reported in the hearing on this bill before the subcommittees of the Committees on Military Affairs of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, it should be noted that their remarks on the bill were made prior to the submission of the proposed legislation to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget and subject to his advice as to the conformity of the bill to the President's financial program.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*